



Buzzwords ...

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..... the newsletter for National Beekeepers' Association members

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- * **Australian honey?**
- * **Conference announcement**
- * **Govt shaves MAF in Tauranga**

'Tidy up my room? I have!!'



PRESIDENTS NOTES

The 1990/91 season is now behind us, if you kept bees between Blenheim and Timaru it sounds like a crop of about four tonnes to the hundred. Bush areas in the North Island yielded well but the remainder very patchy. The deep south has had another poor one.

There is very little honey on offer in the Honey Packer's newsletter and yet rumours abound that in certain parts of New Zealand large stocks are being held!

At a meeting to be held at Flock House on 12 March the application for the new levy under the Commodity Levies Act will be finalised. This planning meeting will also update the Industry Plan for 1991/92. If any members have a contribution to make in ways to assist reaching a fair

decision for all, please contact your branch secretary, the executive secretary or any member of the National Executive. You can find addresses and phone numbers in issues of the New Zealand Beekeeper.

Dudley Ward
NBA President

NOTES FROM CONFERENCE CALL

Special thanks to the New Zealand Honey Packers Association for the following notes. Members of this group conduct periodical conference calls, giving a number of people from various parts of the country a chance to keep up to date with conditions and crop and price expectations.

Crop estimates - overall a bit below average with Canterbury being best of South Island and East Coast the best of the North. Auckland, Waikato and Southland probably areas with lowest crops. North Island honey mostly bush sources (darker).

Buying interest from packers normal with prices around \$1.90 to \$2.00 per kilo depending on cost of delivery to packer.

Wholesale prices in New Zealand steady around \$1.85 + GST for a 500g pot. Increased packaging and labour costs indicate a price rise before too long.

Exporter division of Honey Packers Assn agreed to in principle. It will be discussed further at NBA planning meeting in March.

Good prices being obtained for **specialty lines** on the export market, such as thyme at \$4.70 and honeydew at \$2.95 to \$3.25. Clover remains difficult to sell at prices that would return producers \$2.00. **World market prices** tending upwards.

BRANCH NOTES

Sounds like a busy time around the branches this month. Thank you for advising *Buzzwords* of your branch events.

The **Westland** branch will be holding a Field Day on Sunday, 10 March starting at 10 AM. It will be at Lindsay Feary's honey house, 3 Mawhera Street, Dobson. Programme will include a tour of Lindsay's honey extracting plant. Stephen Ogden will speak on the protein requirements of bees and the use of pollen supplements. Reg Clark will speak on queen quality. Dave Grueber will discuss brood diseases. Finally, Gavin White will talk about preparing hives for winter, including such things as autumn sugar feeding. Bring your latest gadgets and ideas plus anything you have for sale. A barbeque will be available on site.

The **Southern North Island** Field Day will be held on the 16th March from 10 AM to 4 PM at Ken Richard's and Mary-Anne Thomason's property, Dudley Road, Inglewood. Topics will be queen raising and queen introduction, propolis collection and wintering down. A stimulating day with lots of fun is guaranteed for all, and it will finish with an informal barbeque. Tent space and billets are available for all visitors - take this opportunity to enjoy Taranaki hospitality! Phone (067) 66 172 for further details and full programme.

Marlborough has an interesting day coming up. On 10 March at Steve Waldran's property 'Southbank Farm', Paynters Road (beside Fairhall Golf Course) they will have Reg Clarke describing his experimental work. Reg is comparing the production from hives led by his queens reared on his nutritional programme with other queens reared without the nutritional additives. The day's activities will involve helping Reg to verify that all the queens are still there and weighing all the honey boxes and brood boxes. The day starts at 12 noon. Bring a lunch and your beekeeping gear, but no smokers (*Editors note: I presume Marlborough*

doesn't want you to bring those smokers with bellows - you tobacco smokers are still welcome, I guess...)

The Marlborough AGM will be held on 27 March at 7:30 PM at the Baptist Hall, corner of Beaver Road.

And some notices from the **Waikato** branch. Organised branch that they are, they've set meeting dates for a number of months to come. First, their Field Day on Saturday 9 March (wet or fine) starting at 10 AM. This is always one of the year's highlights, drawing together beekeepers from all over the North Island and even 'overseas' sometimes. It will be at the Lorimer's honey house, Tauwhare Road (between Tamahere and Matangi, near Hamilton). They've even got events for the Friday evening before and the Sunday after! For full details, contact Tony Lorimer (071) 69 625.

Other events for Waikato include: AGM on 19 April, Remit meeting on 31 May, Remit voting meeting 5 July and a Post-conference meeting on 9 August.

Probably too late for this one by the time you get this, but the **Bay of Plenty** branch will be having a Field Day on Saturday 2 March, focusing mostly on bee genetics. It starts at 10 AM at Norm and Mary Dean's honey house, Rowes Road, Ohauiti, Tauranga. Guest speakers will include David Yanke of Kaitia who will outline genetic improvement in queens and describe his success with Western Australian drone semen imports. Contact Karl Christophersen, (075) 20 696 for any last minute details.

HONEY IN THE SURVEY

A recently publicised survey conducted by the Hillary Commission indicated that we have no room for complacency in the marketing of our product. The Life in New Zealand survey asked over 10,000 people questions about physical activity, leisure, health and nutrition. In the field of spreads, jam and marmalade were the most popular, with 67 per cent of people eating them at least once a week. They were mostly chosen by men. Vegemite and Marmite were eaten by 60 per cent of those surveyed, more often by women. Honey was eaten by 46 per cent of people and peanut butter by 36 per cent.

The results of the survey that I have seen did not analyse by age brackets or location, but overall these figures give us as beekeepers not a lot of good news about our markets. And in the spreads field, we're up against some well-organised competition.

DIESEL TAX REFUNDS

Apologies for the lateness of this - arrived just after last issue.

Lodge claims with your oil supplier *immediately* if you haven't done so to obtain a refund of excise tax on diesel supplied held on farm as at 1 January.

Straight Furrow

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION 1991 AGM, CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES AND SEMINAR

BLenheim, 15 TO 18 JULY

VENUE: Blenheim Country Lodge Hotel
Alfred Street, Blenheim
P O Box 747. Telephone (057) 85 079 Fax (057) 30 337

NBA SEMINAR THEME:
'More Professionalism in Beekeeping'

- * Beekeeping in the '90's
- * The Computer as Hive Tool
- * Stop Keeping Bees - Make the Bees Keep You
- * Marketing Options - Honey Sweeter than Wine

PROGRAMME:

Monday 15th Specialty Group Meetings from 1 PM
Social 'Happy Hour' from 6 PM

Tuesday 16th NBA Seminar 9 AM to 4:30 PM

Wednesday 17th Conference all day from 9 AM
Wine Trail Tour in afternoon
Conference Dinner/Dance in evening

Thursday 18th Conference all day from 9 AM
Patchwork Quilting Workshop

VENUE: The Blenheim Country Lodge is our leading hotel, with top class appointments, and full conference facilities. The friendly relaxed atmosphere guarantees maximum concentration and achievement. There are 54 bedrooms with either one double bed plus divan or two double beds. The special Conference room rate is \$75.00. Marlborough is New Zealand's 'Gourmet Province'. The award winning restaurant features the best of local food and world-acclaimed wines. The hotel is only two minutes from the town centre, and there are a wide range of leisure activities and tourist attractions for your enjoyment. Stay a few extra days - sample the Rainbow skifield, cruise the Marlborough Sounds, see the whales off Kaikoura.

COSTS:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Conference registration | \$15.00 |
| Monday social | Free 'Happy Hour', then at own expense |
| Seminar registration | \$25.00 includes morning/afternoon teas and light lunch |
| Conference dinner/dance | \$56 (single) |
| Wine Trail Tour | \$27 |
| Patchwork Quilting Workshop | \$30 (includes materials) |

Note: All costs are inclusive of GST.

REGISTRATION:

Please assist us by registering in advance, not later than 4 June, on the form provided.

TRAVEL: Frequent flights serve Blenheim Airport - Hotel courtesy car and taxis available. Twenty minutes from Picton and the Inter-island Ferry service.

*EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE ADVISABLE - BOOK NOW -
DIRECT TO THE HOTEL.*

The Marlborough Branch extends to you a cordial invitation to Conference, 1991 - enjoy a winter break in our sunny 'Gourmet Paradise'. All correspondence and enquiries to:

Conference Convener
PO Box 307
Blenheim

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATION FORM - CONFERENCE 1991

Please register me/us for the following activities -

Full name and address (give all if party booking)

| Activity | Inc GST | Number | Total |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| Conference registration fee | \$15-00 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Seminar Registration | \$25-00 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Dinner/dance (single) | \$56-00 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Wine Trail Tour | \$27-00 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Patchwork Quilting | \$30-00 | _____ | \$ _____ |

Please send further information on:

Note closing date is 4 June 1991. Forward to:
Conference Convener
P O Box 307
Blenheim

I enclose payment in full of \$ _____

HONEY FROM AUSSIE?

Want some more bad news? This one's from the *Sentinel*, the bulletin of the National Agriculture Security Service.

Discussions were held in late November between NZ's Chief Veterinary Officer and the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS). During these discussions, AQIS officials proposed that New Zealand Australia should harmonise their requirements of each other for the trade in honey and salmon flesh. Specific details have not been put forward, but in terms of trans-Tasman trade the implications of these proposals are that Tasmanian salmon and Western Australian honey could be imported into New Zealand. When detailed proposals are received, they will be circulated for industry consultation.

And in the latest issue, dated 1 February, it continues that Australia has now formally requested the quarantine conditions under which these products may be exported to New Zealand!

Remember that trade barriers based on market considerations are a real 'no-no'. Even in the assessment of risks related to the importation of disease, things are not really the way many beekeepers think they are. New Zealand does not have a closed door on honey importations. Honey can be brought in under permit, and the reasons for denying such a permit are pretty restricted. And if the honey is to come from a place that doesn't have the diseases we fear, or the honey can be heat treated to make it 'safe', it gets harder and harder to restrict the access to New Zealand.

I told you that you wouldn't like that one, didn't I?

LEMA CYENALLA

Remember my note in the last issue about the number of submissions that the NBA receives and acts upon related to the importation of insects? Well, we've lost another one. *Lema cyenalla* is a leaf feeding beetle that has recently been released from quarantine after the Chief Veterinary Officer approval. This is a little beastie to feed on the Californian thistle. The reference I particularly disliked was 'On the basis of almost unanimous support for the release of the beetle ...'.

Your NBA did make it known the value of the plant to us, but obviously it doesn't carry a lot of weight in decisions such as this one.

From Sentinel, National Agriculture Security Service bulletin

MAF 'RAZORED' IN TAURANGA

A vacancy has occurred in the Tauranga apiary district following the resignation of Andrew Matheson. Andrew has taken up an appointment as Director of the International Bee Research Association based in Cardiff, Wales.

Permission was initially given to fill the Tauranga position, interviews were held and a candidate chosen. However, before the appointment could be confirmed we had a change of government and directives from head office placing restrictions on new appointments. So far permission has not been given to replace Andrew.

There are two issues to be faced. The first is the whole role of MAF re-examined and especially our involvement in consultancy work. The second issue is that apiculture is not self supporting mainly because we are not receiving any funds for our extensive involvement in disease control work.

I was able to secure a contract for one month for Mr Cliff van Eaton, formerly apiculture advisory officer Whangarei, to maintain apiculture services in Tauranga. Cliff has been keeping the register up-to-date, inspecting for foulbrood, carrying out our sampling program for exotic bee diseases, and monitoring the restricted beekeeping zones. Unfortunately there are still a number of beekeepers, both commercial and hobbyist, not complying with conditions of their permits to operate hives in the restricted areas. Follow up action is being undertaken with these beekeepers.

Murray Reid, MAF Hamilton

FAX LIST

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Steuart Goodman, NBA Executive Sec'y | (04) 712 882 |
| Ted Roberts, Exec Officer | (063) 68 130 |
| Derek Bettsworth, MAF Whangarei | (089) 71 368 |
| Gavin McKenzie, Telford Polytechnic | (03) 418 3584 |
| Mark Goodwin, Ruakura Plant Prot Group | (071) 385 073 |
| Nick Wallingford, Nat Exec | (075) 442 386 |
| Sue Walker, Honeyland N.Z. Ltd | (063) 67 048 |
| Alan Bougin, Cornvita N.Z. Ltd | (075) 31 118 |
| NZ Beeswax Ltd | (03) 693 9780 |
| Bryan Clements, Waikato Honey Ltd | (07) 871 4709 |
| Steuart Ecroyd, Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies | (03) 358 8789 |
| Ken Franklin | (0817) 63 704 |
| Murray Reid, Hamilton MAF | (071) 385 84 |
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The views expressed in *Buzzwords* are not necessarily those of the National Beekeepers' Association nor of the Editor.